

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A biological prosthesis comprising an animal aortic valve through which blood flows in a single direction, the aortic valve having a tubular outer wall, in combination with an intraparietal reinforcement device comprising a rod implanted in said tubular wall and extending substantially parallel to said direction of blood flow.

22. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, there being a plurality of said intraparietal reinforcement devices implanted in said outer tubular wall, in spaced relation to each other.

23. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 22, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement devices are parallel to each other.

24. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said aortic valve has commissures that are parallel to said direction and perpendicular to said tubular wall and joined to said tubular wall, said intraparietal reinforcement device being implanted at the juncture of said outer tubular wall and a said commissure.

25. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 24, wherein said aortic valve has three said commissures and there is a said intraparietal reinforcement device implanted at the juncture of each said commissure with said tubular outer wall.

26. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 25, said intraparietal reinforcement devices being spaced apart from each other.

27. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device is covered with Teflon.

28. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device is straight.

29. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device has a helical shape.

30. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device has a helical surface portion.

31. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device has a pointed end.

32. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 21, wherein said intraparietal reinforcement device has a cross piece at one end.

33. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 32, wherein said cross piece is a straight bar.

34. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 32, wherein said cross piece has the same curvature as said tubular wall.

35. (new) A biological prosthesis according to claim 32, wherein there is a cross piece at each end of the intraparietal reinforcement device.